

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I bring to the notice of the President the fact that some how or other it has become an almost invariable rule since the commencement of the session that only ten questions will be answered in a day? In connection with this session we have given notice of as many as two hundred questions and I do not see how even these two hundred questions will be answered if we go on at the rate of answering only ten questions a day. It is only ten minutes after the sitting of the Council began and we have finished the interpellations answered for the day; while under the rules we have one hour allotted for this purpose. It may also be seen that many of these questions could be answered from the papers that ought to be in the Secretariat itself and, yet, we find that only ten questions are answered in a day. I bring this to the notice of the President for proper action.

PRESIDENT: What have you to say, Mr. Krishna Pillai?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The questions that are now asked are all new questions and we have to get replies from the Heads of Departments. There are no papers in the Secretariat itself which would enable us to give answers as soon as we get notice of questions. The delay in answering more questions is due to the fact that we have not got enough replies from the Heads of Departments concerned. I may also inform the House in this connection that it may not be possible to answer even ten questions from tomorrow onwards as the number of answers that we have so far got is limited.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): If I am not interrupting the member, may I ask him whether he thinks that it would not be possible to answer even ten questions from tomorrow onwards?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It may not be possible, for the reason I have stated. If more answers are ready, we have no objection to answering more questions.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Thanu Pillai, the Secretary says that many of these questions are new ones and that they have been referred to Heads of Departments for answers and that as many questions as can be answered are put in. Of course, if they receive more answers more questions will be answered.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyatinkara*): But may I inform the Chair that on former occasions, Government were answering more questions?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It all depends upon when the questions are received.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I humbly suggest, Sir, that these officers may be replaced by other people?

PRESIDENT: Which officers?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The officers who cannot send in replies to these questions. The rules provide that we have to give at least 12 days' notice in respect of questions. That rule is strictly enforced as against us, and any question which is received at the office of the Secretary to the Legislative Council after that time is disallowed. Therefore I believe, in justice, the Heads of Departments must also be directed to send in their replies at the proper time. If the officers cannot send up replies relating to matters affecting their departments, I should think it is high time for Government to consider whether some change in the personnel of the various officers concerned is not called for.

PRESIDENT : I must tell you, Mr. Thanu Pillai, yours is a very one-sided way of looking at things, because, when a question is sent, answers have to be compiled by reference to various officers. As I told you, as many questions as are possible, the Secretary will put in.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Demand III—Police.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*) : I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,28,097 under Demand III—Police.

Motion 136.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

135. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,912 for temporary establishment in the Police Commissioner's office.

Motion 137.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I beg to move the following motion :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

Sir, I do not think it is necessary to advance fresh arguments for a reduction in the T. A. of the Police Commissioner. All the arguments advanced by my friends in regard to the reduction of the T. A. of the Chief Engineer hold good with greater force in the case of the Commissioner of Police. It may be said in the case of the Chief Engineer that he was not responsible for the faults pointed out here because he is new to his office. But that cannot be said of the Commissioner of Police. We find that the argument that he is a covenanted officer may not also apply, because, as a matter of fact, the term of the Commissioner of Police under the original covenant has expired and the period of service has been extended. I do not know whether it is under the terms of the original covenant or not. So that members on this side of the House need not at all be afraid to reduce the allotment under travelling allowance of the Commissioner of Police. There is absolutely no justification in cutting out the T. A. of the Chief Engineer if we do not cut out this 1,000 rupees in the T. A. of the Commissioner. If we look at the Administration Report of the